

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4 and 9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 5-8, and 10, and add new Claim 12, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for effecting at least one of display and input, comprising:

a flexible sheet-like member for effecting at least one of display and input, and

a rigidity adjusting means for changing at least partially a rigidity of said flexible sheet-like member, and

first detection means for detecting that said sheet-like member is not placed on a surface having a certain degree of rigidity,

wherein said rigidity adjusting means is not controlled to ensure rigidity necessary for said sheet-like member unless, at least, said first detection means detects that said sheet-like member is not placed on a surface having the certain degree of rigidity.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said sheet-like member comprises an input portion and a display portion which substantially overlap each other to provide a unit when viewed from a direction of a user's line of sight.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said rigidity adjusting means comprises a control portion and a rigidity adjusting member attached to the sheet-like member, said rigidity adjusting member being formed of a variable-rigidity material.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus

further comprises second detection means for detecting start of input, and said rigidity adjusting ~~means~~member is not controlled to ensure rigidity necessary for said sheet-like member~~apparatus~~ unless, at least, said second detection means ~~at least~~ detects start of input.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises third detection means for detecting stop of input, and said rigidity adjusting ~~means~~member is controlled to return said sheet-like rigidity adjusting member ~~to~~ in a flexible state when said third detection means detects stop of input when said rigidity adjusting means is in ~~such~~ a state such that rigidity necessary for said sheet-like member~~apparatus~~ is ensured.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus further ~~comprises~~comprising means for controlling timing of ensuring and/or losing rigidity necessary for the sheet-like member~~apparatus~~.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1~~[[4]]~~, wherein ~~said the~~ first detection means detects a state of said sheet-like member~~apparatus~~ to control said rigidity adjusting means even while~~during~~ input is performed.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said rigidity adjusting means comprises a movable mechanism which can be placed in such a state that it does not impair flexibility of said sheet-like member and is movable in an area capable of at least partially ensuring~~ensure~~ rigidity of said sheet-like member.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said apparatus is at least an apparatus for effecting display, and said rigidity adjusting member also functions as a base portion of drive means for driving said apparatus.

12. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said rigidity adjusting member is controlled to ensure rigidity necessary for said apparatus if said first detection means detects that said sheet-like member is placed on the surface having the certain degree of rigidity and said second detection means detects start of input.